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True and Last Declaration of the Inhabitants of Cevennes. 1703

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The True and Last

DECLARATION

OF THE

Inhabitants

OF THE

CEVENNES,

Now in Arms for the Defence of their *Religion*, *Lives*, and *Liberties*, against the Cruelties and Tyranny of their *Persecutors*; As it was Fix'd up in a Village near *Uzez*, and mentioned in the Monthly *Mercury* of *July*.

With A

Letter from their Leaders to their King.

And Two other Letters sent lately from *Geneva* to a *Gentleman* now in *LONDON*; Representing their Condition, and some late Actions. All Translated out of *French* Copies.

To which are added,

Some Seasonable Reflections upon the *Popes Bull*, and the Mandate of the *Bishop* of *Nismes*, Directed against them to the *Clergy* of that *Diocess*.

LONDON: Printed for Tho. Parkhurst, at the *Bible* and Three *Crowns* in *Cheapside* near *Mercers-Chapel*, 1703.

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Mar 26, 1930

Advertiſement.

THE Condition of the *Cevennois*, is not ſo Deſperable as the Emiſſaries and Favourers of the *French* would perſwade us: This Declaration fix'd up in a Village near *Uſez*, as is mentioned in the Monthly *Mercury of July*, ſhews them to be a Numerous, a Succesſful, and a rational Body of Men. It gave ſo great Umbrage to *Montrevel*, who fear-ed what Influence it might have upon the People, that he ſent 5 Troops of Dragoons to take it down, but they were met with by the *Camiſars*, who cut them in pieces, only 30 return'd back to the Marſhal. 'Tis certain, their Cauſe is judged ſo Equitable and Juſt, that were it not for the Army that Poſſeſſes the Towns, they would all Declare for them againſt the Tyranny of the Government; You may under-ſtand more of them in the laſt *Mercury*.

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THE

TRUE and LAST

DECLARATION

OF THE

Cevennois.

THIS not unknown to the World, with what Zeal, Faithfulness, and Affection they of the *Reformed Religion* in this Kingdom have always served their Kings, particularly the Princes of the House of *Bourbon*; how constantly they have adher'd to their Interest, and that of the Crown of *France*, and how steady their Resolutions have been to Support and Maintain them against all Combinations and Leigues of their powerful Enemies.

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Never any Society of Men have been more unanimous in ſpending prodigally their Lives and Fortunes for any Prince, than we have been to pleaſure and gratifie our Monarchs. When the Family of *Guiſe* thought to have ſucceeded that of *Valois*, and ſet aſide the Right and Lawful Heirs, and in that Proſpect Headed, and animated the Leigue againſt the Authority of *Henry* III. and the Perſon of *Henry* IV. The *Proteſtants* within and without the Kingdom, were the moſt forward to Sacrifice their Eſtates and Lives, in the Aſſiſtance of thoſe Two Kings. And ſince that Time, what remarkable and faithful Services have they performed to *Lewis* the XIII. and his preſent Majeſty. The large Promiſes, and the greateſt Advantages tender'd to them, could not tempt them to forſake their Intereſt. When the Factions were countenanced by the greateſt Princes of the Nation, and had the faireſt Pretences of Good and Honour, they always joined with the Royal Power, againſt all its ſecret and open Enemies. The Minority of our preſent King, is not yet forgotten in the Memories of Men, as our faithful Services are. We were often ſolicited by the Late Prince of *Conde* to join with him, and all the Advantages and Security that could be expected for our Religion, and Perſons were freely offered; if we would but approve of his Cauſe, and favour his Pretenſions, which aim'd ſo high, as to dethrone our Young Monarch. But we judg'd it then our Duty to ſtand by him, and oppoſe his Adverſaries Deſigns. We aſſiſted him with our Blood and Treaſure, we ſecured for him Cities and whole Provinces. We put a ſtop to the Proceedings of his Enemies, and have by that means kept the Crown upon his Head. For the Proof of theſe our faithful Services to him and his Father, we Appeal to the Publick Declarations of King *Lewis* the XIII. Dated *17 April*, 1623. and the 15 *January*,

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January, and of *March* 1626. Wherein that good King approves of, and applauds the Loyalty, the Courage and uncorrupted Fidelity of the Reformed Churches, by saying, That they had taken Resolutions quite contrary to the Sentiments and Purposes of some of the Eminent Persons of their Religion and others; That many of their Highest Nobility, as the *Dukes de la Tremoville*, *de la Force*, *de Chatillon*, &c. and their principal Congregations, as *Paris*, *Rochel*, *Nismes*, *Usez*, *Montauban*, and the *Communities* of the *Cevennes*, disown'd and abhorr'd Publickly the violent Proceedings of the *Dukes* of *Rohan* and *Soubize*: That in Consideration of the Loyalty and Remarkable Services of several of them who continued Faithful and Constant to their Duty, that King granted to the remaining Part, and to such as had been debauched by the cunning Artifices of their Deceivers. Peace, Pardon, and an Abolition of their Revolt and Crimes: And the same just Prince, in his Letter Dated 23d of *August*, 1632, directed to the Parliament of *Tholouse*, to Order that Body to Proceed against the *Duke* of *Montmoreny*, of whom he Complains, *That he had endeavoured to Corrupt and draw into his Party the Reformed Churches of his Government*, Witnesses for them; *That they had Couragiously resisted all his Solicitations, and disappointed his secret Intrigues*; And further adds, *That the Townes and Cities of the Reformed Perswasion; being sensible of the easiness of his Government, and resting upon the Truth of his Royal Promises, had so faithfully opposed themselves to that Duke, that he had great Reason to be well satisfied with their Conduct, and to Treat them favourably as his Resolution was according to the Edicts.* The late *Queen Mother*, also during the time of her Government, Published an Ample Testimonial of our Fidelity to the Crown, and to the Interest of her *Son*, who Witnessed the same as soon as he ascended the Throne, and gave us full Assurance to continue

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to us our Priviledges and Liberties, according to the Edict of *Nantes*, which he then declared to be *Perpetual* and *Irrevocable*, and to be *an absolute a Clear and fundamental Law* of the *Nation*. Who could have imagin'd that a People who had been so Servicable to their Kings, & more especially to this; now alive, should have ever been so cruelly Persecuted under his Government, by his Orders, Consent and Approbation, without the least Cause or Provocation given by them? Who could have thought that a Prince, who professes so much Justice and Truth in Word and Deed, would offer to repeal an Edict and Law, that he had publickly declared to be *Perpetual* and *Irrevocable*. After so many Declarations and Protestations in our Favour in the beginning of his Reign, who could have fore-told that we were to be Dragooned and Ruined by him? What have we done to deserve such Treatment from him? What Crimes can be laid to our Charge? When and where have we Plotted against, and disturbed his Government? Before the violent Persecutions began, his Armies were full of Men of our Profession, who often hazarded their Lives for the Glory of their King. We joyfully paid our Tributes and Taxes to support his Grandure. None more submissive to his Commands and Orders. When our Churches were Decimated, our Religion Threatned, our Estates Seized by our Enemies, when Law and Justice was denied to us every where in the Courts of Judicature, and we were abridged by Degrees of our Freedoms, Liberties, and Rights; and when we saw greater Violences coming upon us; Nay when the Troops of Dragoons dissipated and wasted our Substance, abused our Persons, and filled every Province with Destruction and Lamentations, with Blood and Desolation, then our Patience and Obedience to the Cruel Orders of our Prince were beyond any Parallel in Former Histories. We suffered quietly the spoiling of our Goods, the impoverishment of

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our Families, the Miseries, Calamities and Torments inflicted by our unmerciful Enemies. For 'tis not to be imagin'd how great have been our Sufferings these Twenty Years: The Prisons, and the noisome Dungeons have been filled with our Brethren; where numbers of them have been Suffocated, Stifled, and poisoned with Stink and Ordure: The Monasteries and Nunneries have robb'd us of our Children of both Sexes, where they have been Tortur'd into a Compliance. The Gallies have been furnished with Slaves from our Religious Congregations, and the Wealthiest have been carried from thence when they have been offering up their Devotions to God for the Safety and Prosperity of their Prince, and there they have been Treated with all the Barbarity that the Malice and Cruelty of Hell could invent; whilst their Estates were Confiscated, and their Families reduced to Beggery.

But we need not give any further Account of our grievous Sufferings for Religion, for the whole Kingdom every Town, and City, and Corner of the Land, have been Eye-witnesses of the Artifices, and Violences used to oblige us to Renounce and Abjure that Truth that we were perswaded of in our Consciences, And what Inhumanities have been put in Practice for that Intent; Foreign Nations will now scarce believe, and future Times will judge to be but *Romance:* And that in times of Peace, when we expected and promised to our selves, to enjoy, with the rest of the Nation, the Fruit of our King's happy Victories, and rest Secure under the Shade of his flourishing Lawrels; Then was he pleased to turn against us, his Poor, Harmless, and well deserving Subjects, the Fury of his Armes, and let loose upon us his inhumane Dragoons: So that we alone had cause to Grieve at the Publick Prosperity, and Lament at our King's Foreign Successes, which gave him

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the greater Liberty to Profecute his long reſolved Purpoſe againſt us, with the moſt incredible Fury, and inexpreſſible Cruelty. We were handled by his Agents, and Soldiers, worſe than Enemies, who after Quarter is granted, are treated with Civility; but we have met with no other Civility from them, but that of Bruits. Our Houſes were Rifled, our Children and Wives were Raviſh'd, our Bodies forced to endure all the Tortures that they could contrive, to oblige us to a Compliance with that which we judge to be Idolatry, and againſt our Perſwaſion and Conſciences. Nothing was left unattempted that Nature could afford, or Art invent, to drive us to the Neceſſity of yielding: They pull'd us by the Hair of our Heads, pluckt off the Nails of our Fingers and Toes: They prickt our naked Bodies with Pins, they ſmoakt us in our Chimneys with whiſps of wet Straw and Hay; they threw us into Fires and held us there till we were almoſt Burnt; they flung us into Wells of Water, and dipped us in Ponds, and multitudes were beaten and tormented to Death, in a moſt unmerciful manner. Divers were hang'd up upon Gallowſes, others broken upon Wheels: Nay, our Enemies Hatred and Cruelty purſued many of our Brethren beyond Death, by cauſing their mangled Bodies to be caſt with Indignation into Jakes and Dunghils, and many to be left unburied.

In our *Cevennes*, though our Numbers far exceeded thoſe of the contrary Religion, we reſiſted not to all the Violences. When the Regiments enter'd our Country by the Kings Command, and diſperſed our Religious Aſſemblies with Vollies of Shot that killed ſeveral Hundreds; The reſt of our Brethren fled up higher into the Mountains, and remained hid in the Woods, and amongſt the Rocks, and in the Caves. But thoſe whom the Care of their Families conſtrain'd to abide at Home, were forced to yield to their Enemies Importunities to go to Maſs,

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and Subscribe to an Abjuration of their Religion: Yet for all their Obedience, they have not been treated therefore with greater Kindness, but burdened with more intollerable Taxes, and their Condition render'd much more miserable, by drawing upon themselves in violating their Consciences unsufferable Griefs both of Body and Mind. Neither have we been suffered to depart the Kingdom, as many have attempted. Such as have been taken, have without any Pity been loaden with Chains, and sent to the Gallies; We had been glad to have had the Liberty to leave all our Wealth and Estates, and to find the Opportunity to escape but with our Lives and Families, to seek and beg our Bread from the Mercy of Strangers; but the High-ways were so narrowly guarded and watched, that we of the *Upper Languedoc*, who are shut in by many other Provinces, and by several Territories of Cities and Towns through which we must of Necessity pass, to go to the Borders of the Kingdom; could not possibly deceive the watchful Eyes, nor avoid the unmerciful Hands of our Enemies, as some have done who inhabited nearer the Seas, or upon the Confines of *France*. We would have attempted any other Lawful Means, besides that we have taken, and unto which we have been by meer Necessity reduced; of shedding the Blood of our Country-men, though our desperate Enemies. For our Prayers, our Petitions, our humble Addresses and Requests had been useless, and often rejected at Court with Threats. Therefore we would have gladly abandon'd our Country and Estates, if we might have been permitted to secure our selves thereby from the Violence of our Persecutors; rather than to raise a Commotion in our Native Country, and be concern'd in a Domestick War. We would have willingly parted with all for the Preservation of our Religion and Consciences, which are dear-

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er to us than our Lives, or any Temporal Enjoyment, and we would have truſted to the Conduct of Providence for a Livelihood. But the Policy of our Enemies would not allow us that Liberty, but have driven us by their cruel Uſage to the Neceſſity of Self-Defence. For we plainly ſaw, that by a Compliance we could not better our Condition, but render it far worſe by ſubmitting to the Tyranny of Men, whoſe Deſign was our Ruin and Deſtruction. They have had a Conſtant Eye upon their New Converts, and oppreſſed them with unreaſonable Fines upon the leaſt Miſtake and Offence. They could not but ſee that whatever *Grimaces* they made, their Abjuration was forced againſt their Wills, and they could not but hate a Religion that inſpires Men with nothing but inhumanity againſt *Diſſenters*; a Religion that offered Violence to their Reaſon, as well as to their Perſons, and made Men ſavages to one another. Truly we would have preferr'd Death if it might have been granted, rather than to embrace ſuch a Religion. The Primitive Methods of the Enemies of *Chriſtianity* to force Men to renounce their Perſwaſion, was far more tolerable than the Proceedings of our Adverſaries; So that we may confidently affirm, that this Perſecution has been the moſt Violent, the moſt Cruel, the moſt Crafty and Barbarous, and the longeſt of any that ever was put in practice by the ancient *Heathens*.

Therefore, if at laſt, having no other way left us to ſecure our ſelves from the unmerciful Dealings of our Enemies, we have taken up Arms to repel Force by Force, we hope our Neighbours, Country-men, and all Perſons of good Senſe and Reaſon will not condemn our Proceedings, nor brand us with Rebellion without a Cauſe. For we are diſown'd by our King for his Subjects, he hath withdrawn his Protection from us, he hath aban-

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doned us to the Fury of Military Execution, he hath violated his Edicts, broken his Promises, and the Fundamental Laws that provided for our Safety; he hath exposed us and ours to Publick *Robbery* and *Violence*, and takes now the Methods to extirpate our Generation from the Land of our Nativity. For that Purpose he sends against us his Armies, he Commissions some of the most barbarous of Men to execute his bloudy Design: Therefore as we have hitherto exercised our Patience, Compliance and Obedience to his Orders, though to our Prejudice, and to no Purpose, nor any good Effect; now we are resolved upon other Expedients, to prefer a speedy Death to a miserable languishing and calamitous Life, in the Power of such unreasonable Butchers and Tyrannical Government. We are resolved to make use of our Weapons, and to vindicate our selves by Force of Arms, according to the Dictates of Nature; for it allows Men to secure themselves from Robbers, Tyranny, and illegal Violences in the same Manner they are assaulted. And our Courage, together with the unanimous Consent, and Approbation of our *Communities*, invite us to take this Method, that we may not be wanting to the Cause of God and Religion, as well as to our own Safety and Preservation; trusting in the Goodness, Favour, Protection and Mercies of him, who is the King of Kings, the Lord of Hosts, who hath seen our Sufferings, heavy Afflictions, and the Streams of Innocent Blood that hath been spilt by our Enemies, that he will require it at their Hands, and not cast us off as our Earthly Prince does, but that he will relieve, assist and deliver us in Time of Danger from the greatest Power that thinks to swallow us up. For the Battel is the Lords, and he can grant Victory to a small and forsaken Number, as well as to a great.

We intend no wrong to any of our Neighbours, of what Religion or Perſwaſion they may be of; our Buſineſs is only to Fight to defend our Selves, our Lives, Liberties, and our Families from ſuch as ſhall attempt to invade us. And our Reſolution is, not to ſpare the laſt drop of our Blood in ſo *Juſt* and *Righteous a Cauſe*. We ſhall not therefore incroach upon the Rights of any, nor take from them what belongs to them; but we ſhall rather endeavour to preſerve them, and theirs from the ſame Miſchiefs and Oppreſſions, that we have ſo long groaned under. Only, let the Adjacent Towns, Villages, and People, take heed how they join with our Enemies againſt their true Intereſt, and forbear from betraying us, and wilfully aſſiſting our Adverſaries. For in ſuch a Caſe, they muſt expect the Law of *Retaliation*; and if any of our Men hereafter ſhall be inhumanely Treated, Butcher'd, and Broken upon the Wheel, or Hang'd: We Declare, That we ſhall deal with our Enemies in the ſame Manner, and ſhew them as little Favour, as our People find at their Hands.

Our Purpoſe therefore is, to continue thus in our lawful Defence, and to reſiſt all armed Powers that ſhall come againſt us, until we ſhall obtain ſuch reaſonable Securities for our Selves and Country, that we may live in Peace, and free from Tyranny and Violence: And until we may procure for our Nation in general a Remedy and Redreſs to the Publick Oppreſſions, Grievances, and unſufferable Evils, under which they and we have Groaned for many Years. For their ſakes, as well as for our own, we ſhall not be ſparing of our Sweat and Blood, to procure them if it be poſſible ſome Relief. For we cannot but lament at the preſent ſad Condition of our Nation in general; to ſee our Princes, Nobility, and Gentry Enſlaved, and Treated not anſwer-

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able to their Ancient Priviledges and Honour; to ſee our Commonalty deſpairing under the heavy Burdens of grievous Taxes, unſufferable Impoſitions, Fines and Tyrannical Exactions; to ſee Citizens and People of all ſorts lamenting under an Arbitrary and Military Government and Officers, who have deſtroied all Truth, Equity and Juſtice, in all Provinces of the Kingdom.

Our Youth are carried away into Forreign Parts to be ſacrificed at Pleaſure: Our Eſtates and Subſtance are taken from us, to enrich the hungry and greedy Courtiers, and ſupply the vain and vaſt Expences in Warring againſt other Nations, and rendring them and our Selves miſerable. We are alſo very much impoveriſhed, by being denied the Benefit of Trade with other People; ſo that we cannot make that Advantage of our Commodities as formerly we did. Our Noble Kingdom is become a Deſolation, an *Aceldama*, a Field of Blood and Calamity. How many Towns and Villages have been burnt and deſtroied? How many flouriſhing Families utterly ruined? Of Sixteen Hundred Thouſand Houſholds of the Reformed Religion, ſome are fled into Foreign Parts, others that have continued in the Kingdom are mightily impoveriſh'd and oppreſſed, and we ſee no end of our Miſeries. We earneſtly therefore Deſire, that we may be inſtrumental in the Hand of God for the Publick Good, and to redreſs the *Grievances* of our Nation, for the Peace and Benefit of the Profeſſors of both Religions.

But we ſee no probability to obtain our Purpoſe and Deſires, unleſs the *Eſtates* of the Kingdom may be lawfully conven'd to judge of ours and the Nations *Grievances* to remedy the Publick Oppreſſions, to ſet Bounds to Tyranny, to regulate the Laws, to limit the Taxes, and to reſtore the Nation to its former Freedom, Peace, Tranquility, and Glory.

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Glory. In ſuch a Caſe we promiſe to acquieſce in ſuch Reſolutions as they ſhall take, if they may have the Liberty to provide and Vote for the Publick Welfare, without being over-awed by the Higher Powers. And tho' we have juſt Cauſe to look upon the *Roman Clergy* amongſt us in general, to be our *Adverſe Party*, and our bitter Enemies, conſidering the Proceedings againſt us of the late Years; yet we dare appeal and refer our ſelves to the Determination of the moderate Perſons among them in the *General Aſſembly*, they being Members of it.

And we Profeſs and Declare, before God, that we will be all contented with ſuch reaſonable Security for our future Safety, from Violence, Invaſion, and Oppreſſion, as our Fore-fathers Formerly enjoyed, and with ſuch allowances for the the Free Profeſſion of our Religion, as the ſaid States of the Kingdom ſhall in their Wiſdoms judge convenient to Grant.

For now we cannot lay down or ſurrender up our Armes into the hands of our unmerciful Perſecutors, without being guilty of the greateſt Folly and Madneſs, and without being acceſſary to our own Deſtruction, and guilty of the Blood and Calamities that we are to expect from their unmerciful Hands. Neither can there be any Promiſes and Engagements that we can reaſonably depend upon in our Caſe, without the *General Aſſembly* of the *States*, whoſe Faith alone we can truſt, and whom we dare chuſe to be our *Arbitrators* and *Judges*.

By what we offer, the Juſtice of our Cauſe may appear to all Men, and the reaſonableneſs of our Pretentions: For we are not a Lawleſs Party aiming at Plunder, and Spoil, or Unruly and Rebellions, but a Society of Religious Perſons, fearing God, and deſiring to Worſhip him in Sincerity and Truth, and for his Sake, and in Obedience to his Command, we earneſtly deſire to be

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subject to our King, whom he hath set over us, and to all his Governours, and to return to our Subjection to him, as soon as we may with that Safety and Security as belong to faithful Subjects. For we never took up Arms against his Authority, till we had tried all other Methods, and reasonable Expedients to secure our selves, and till his Officers treated us no longer as Humane Creatures ought to do, but as *Beasts of Prey* would have done, and not as Subjects, but as Enemies. This may appear in all the passages of, and instances of our Persecution, and particularly in the first motion of our resisting the Royal Authority, which happen'd in this manner, and through this occasion.

An Assembly of our Brethren were privately gathered together in a remote and retired Place of the Mountain of *Lausere*, Scituate in the upper part of the *Cevennes*, to offer up their Prayers to God, and to exhort one another to Constancy. The *Abbot* of *Cheylar*, a watchful and busie Persecutor, came upon them with Soldiers, who soon dispersed them; some they kill'd, others they took and hang'd in the same Place, others they carried away Prisoners to a neighbouring Town, called *Pont de Monvert*, where they were shut up in Houses, with a purpose to Execute them the next day for Publick Example. Such as Fled, and escaped from the hands of the Soldiers, knowing what they were to expect from the Inquisition of this mercilesS *Abbot*, consulted together, and gathered into a Body that Night, to prevent the hanging of their Brethren: They Assaulted and broke open the Houses, where they freed them from their Imprisonment; But the *Abbot* fearing some Violence, as he had deserved, leapt out of a Window and broke his Neck. In this Fury, about 7 or 8 of the *Abbots* Men were killed, whilest they were making Resistance.

This Success of our Party, soon reacht the Ears of *Count Brioglio*, *the King's Lieutenant*, who immediately

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ſent againſt them a Regiment of Men, who found, and Attacked them in a Wood, where, after we had offered up our Prayers to God, we fell with that Fury upon our Enemies, tho' we were but a handful of Men, we routed and put them to Flight, with little or no loſs on our ſide; but with the Deſtruction of above 100 killed of our Enemies, and many deſperately Wounded. This firſt Attempt and proſperous Succeſs, Encouraged others to join us, both *Roman-Catholicks* and *Proteſtants*, many who have been reduced to extream Poverty, by the number and greatneſs of the Taxes, Impoſitions, and Arbitrary Fines. So that now we can make a conſiderable Army, compoſed of Men of both Religions: But our chief ſtrength is not in the arm of Fleſh, but in the living God, whoſe Aſſiſtance we humbly implore. And we intreat all *Soveraign Princes*, *Rulers*, *Governours*, *States*, *Common-wealths*, and all *Chriſtian People*, to conſider our former lamentable Condition, and to have ſome Compaſſion of us, and to aſſiſt us at leaſt with their Prayers; Not to judge us to be Rebellious and diſorderly Subjects, but to have ſome regard to the Neceſſities, to which we were reduced by the unheard of Cruelties, and barbarous uſage of our Enemies, and to conſider that we had no other way left us to ſtop our Violent and continual Perſecutions, but to ſtand up in our own Defence.

We intend, not by our Example, to encourage *Subjects* to Revolt from their Lawful *Princes:* For none have had, nor can have a greater Veneration for a Royal and Legal Authority than we have, and none ſhall more willingly return to Obedience, when we can be aſſured, that we ſhall be treated as Subjects ought to be, and be Governed by *Law* and *Reaſon*.

We humbly beſeech therefore all our *Princes*, *Parliaments*, *Nobility*, *Gentry*, and *Countrymen* of our *Nation*, to aſſiſt us in the recovery of our *Rights*, in the reſtoring of

Order

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Order, *Equity*, *Juſtice*, and *Liberty*, and in the Settlement of *Peace*; and if they may with ſafety, to unite with us in the Proſecution of ſo *laudable a Deſign*, which will infallibly, be to the Advantage of them and their *Poſterity*, as well as to the *Honour* and *Benefit* of the *French* Nation in general, and the *Glory* of *God*. And all *Officers* and *Soldiers*, particularly of our own *Nation*, that are ſent againſt us, are deſired to conſider whoſe Blood they are commanded to ſpill, the Blood of their poor Perſecuted *Countrymen*, of their *Brethren* and *Kindred*, who Pray for them and their Converſion, the Blood of thoſe who are neceſſitated to Fight, and have no other ſafety but in their Arms.

And finally, we beſeech our *Great* and *Juſt God*, to look in Mercy upon us, our diſtreſſed Families, and the innocent Blood that has been ſpilt among us for his Sake, and the true Worſhip of his Holy Name, to touch the Heart of our King and Miniſters with ſome Compaſſion of us, his afflicted People, to open the Eyes of our Enemies, that they may underſtand the Truth of the Goſpel, to give Repentance to all our former Perſecutors, and to make them ſenſible of the hainous Crimes that they are guilty of. We beſeech this *Almighty Saviour*, to deliver us from the Fury and Power of all our Adverſaries, to encourage ſuch as Fight for their *Liberties*, *Religion*, and *Conſciences*, and to grant them *Victory*, *Proſperity*, and *Succeſs*, and in due time, ſuch a *Peace*, as may tend to the *Propagation* of the *Goſpel* of *Chriſt*, and to the *Glory* of his *Great Name*, Amen: *So be it.*

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A Copy of a Letter written from, and *Subscribed* by the Chief *Officers* and *Leaders* of the *Inhabitants* of the *Cevennes*, now in *Arms*, and Directed to their *King*.

SIRE,

IT has pleas'd your *Majesty* to suffer us, of the *Reformed Religion* in your Kingdom, to be Persecuted now these *Twenty Years*, and to deny us that *Liberty* and *Protection*, that the former Kings, your Predecessors, have thought reasonable to Grant, and to confirm by *Law*, and which we might as justly have expected from you, that has been so Faithfully Serv'd by us. *God* and your *Majesty* knows, that we have not deserved that *inhumane Treatment*, and those *unparalleled Severities*, that we have suffered from the hands of your *Clergy* and *Officers*, with a wonderful Patience and Submission. By whose Orders they exercised these *Barbarities* upon us, your Majesty best knows. If being moved by their *Natural Antipathy* against us, and *ordinary Aversion* for the Divine *Truth* that we profess; If they have acted without your *Majestie's Cognisance* or *Approbation*, it had become your Royal *Goodness* and *Justice*, to have afforded us your *Compassion* and *Relief*. For our *Sufferings* and *Calamities* in every *Province*, could not be concealed from you by the *Artifices* of the *Enemies* of *True Religion* and *Justice*. If by your express *Command*, we have so long groaned

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groaned under their unsufferable Tyranny, we cannot but imagine, that we have been strangely misrepresented to you, as the vilest of Men that deserve your *Indignation:* Otherwise, we cannot think that you could have been induc'd and prevailed upon to let loose upon us so much *Fury*, and expose us to so much *Cruelty*. 'Tis plain to be understood, that the extirpating of us and our Name, is designed by these Proceedings. And we have been often told, that your *Majesty* will have but one *Religion* in your *Dominions*, and that we must all Conform to yours: But was there no other way to bring us into your Church, but by the *Ministers* of *Violence* and *Destruction?* Did all other *Reasons* and *Arguments* proper and able to perswade Men fail, and were you forced to have recourse to the Sword, to incline us to be true *Catholick Christians:* 'Tis a Method to convert Men, not becoming the Excellency and Splendor of the *Christian Truth*, and *Goodness*, and altogether unknown to the *primitive Apostles* of our *Redeemer*. 'Tis a Method may make Men *Hypocrites* in Religion, but no true *Converts*, and doubtless such will infallibly hate that Perswasion, into which they have been driven by Violence, and obliged to Embrace against their Consciences and Knowledge. 'Tis a Method not likely to compass the end, for which it is employed: And as it is unreasonable, unjust, and disgraceful to those who use it, because it bespeaks their Weakness, and the want of the proper Means to propagate Truth, it is altogether prejudicial to your *Majesty's Interest*, *Glory*, *Greatness*, as well as to the *Peace* and *Prosperity* of *France*. It cannot but be highly prejudicial to your *Majesties Interest*, to dishearten, ruine, and drive away your most industrious, most useful Subjects, whose *Purses* were always open, and ready to supply your urgent Necessities, and of the State, at the least motion from you. And what *Glory* can it be, for a Prince to Surprise and

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Sacrifice, and Dragoon a Naked People, who truſted in his Royal Word and Promiſes, and expoſe them to Plunder, Spoil and utter Deſtruction: A People, who never diſoblig'd him in Word or Deed; but rather were willing to Part with all, and ſpared nothing that might gratifie his Pleaſure, and exalt his Name. Does your *Majeſty* think, that by oppreſſing ſuch Numbers of your Poor Naked Subjects, you have gain'd any *Luſtre* to your *Reputation*, or Addition to your *Greatneſs*. Whatever your Court Flatterers, and Wicked Clergy may perſwade you, that *Greatneſs* hath but a rotten Foundation, and is a meer Deceit, when the Cries, the Tears, and Blood of innocent and deluded People are at the Bottom.

And as your Majeſty cannot in reaſon propoſe to your Self any probable Increaſe to your Glory, Honour, and Reputation, or any other Private Advantage by the continuance of this *Perſecution* of us; it is certain, that your *Kingdom* is, and will be thereby the more weakened, ſpoiled, and looſe conſiderably in ſeveral Reſpects; and particularly, by the *Decay of Trade*, that is beſt encouraged by *Peace*, *Tranquillity*, and by the *Eaſe*, *and Satisfaction* of your *Subjects*.

But theſe kind of *Remonſtrances*, perhaps will avail but little upon your *Majeſty*, and your *Miniſters*, that are reſolved upon a contrary Method to root us out of your *Dominions*, to blot out our *Names* from the *Earth*, and to Sacrifice us to the Malice and Hatred of your *Clergy*, our open and ſworn Enemies. Indeed, we have a long Time ſubmitted to *Violence*, till our *Patience* is quite tired out. We have now taken up *Arms*, either to Die like Men, or to Purchaſe our *Peace*, *Liberty*, and *Freedom*, with the Expence of our Blood. But we proteſt, and *God* is our Witneſs, that it is againſt our Wills,

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Wills, that we fight againſt your *Majeſties* Royal *Authority*, and *Commiſſioned Officers*. We have no other way left us to preſerve our Selves, our Families, our Wives and Children, and to provide for our *Temporal Safety*; and we judge it not inconſiſtent with our *Eternal Welfare*, to behave our Selves with Courage in this *Juſt Cauſe*, wherein *God* and our *Religion* are ſo nearly concerned: In this Caſe to repel Force by Force, to prevent the Cruelty of your *Officers*, and a certain Death to Defend our Selves with the Sword, to deſtroy ſuch as Deſign to Plunder, Spoil, and Kill us, and to maintain our Selves and Country, from the unjuſt Invaſion of unmerciful Men.

We are not Ignorant, that ſuch *Practices* are branded with the odious Title of *Rebellion*, by ſuch as would ſwallow us up without *Reſiſtance*, and would have us quietly reſign our Lives and Fortunes into their unmerciful Hands, that they might Triumph over us at an eaſie Rate. But in our Caſe and Circumſtances, we eſteem it the *greateſt Folly*, to yield to a certain *Deſtruction*, when we are by *Providence* inabled to prevent and avoid it, though we be Condemned to it by the *higheſt Authority* under *God*; for ſuch a *Condemnation* being contrary to *Law*, *Juſtice*, *Equity* and *Reaſon*, is but an *Abuſe* of that Power committed to the Truſt of that *Supream Authority*.

However, when your *Majeſty* ſhall think fit to recall your *Troops* from our *Borders*, and grant us *Liberty* and *Security* for our Perſons and Religion; ſuch *Security* that we may depend upon and be certain, that we ſhall not be moleſted nor diſquieted for the Future in our Temporal and Spiritual Profeſſions; we ſhall willingly and joyfully return to your *Obedience*, pay to your Royal *Dignity* and *Authority* all that *Honour*, and *Reſpect* due

to

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to your *Sacred Perſon*; and yield to you and your *Governours* the *Tributes* and *Taxes*, that ſhall be demanded of us, for the *Defence* of the *Publick*, and the Support of your *Honour*. In the mean while, till this can be obtain'd from your Wiſdom and Goodneſs; we ſhall not ceaſe to offer up our *Vows* and *Prayers* to the *Majeſty* of *Heaven*, for your *Majeſty* here upon *Earth*, that *God* would incline your Heart to Compaſſionate us *poor diſtreſſed* and *perſecuted Creatures*, to grant unto us ſuch *Peace* and *Security*, that may prevent the ſhedding of more Chriſtian Blood, and cauſe you to treat us as becomes a *Juſt* and *Wiſe* Prince. And in ſuch a Caſe, that he would continue and increaſe to your Royal Perſon, all the Bleſſings Temporal and Spiritual. Theſe are the daily Petitions of lately

Your Majeſties moſt faithful, moſt humble, diſtreſſed and perſecuted Subjects, &c.

Two

Two Letters sent from *Geneva* to a Gentleman now in *London*, Representing the Condition of the Inhabitants of the *Cevennes*, and some late Actions.

SIR,

TO Answer your Request, concerning the Inhabitants of the *Cevennes*, whose brave Actions, and wonderful Success, I suppose, make a great Noise all over our *European World*: They are the People of the *Upper Languedoc*, a Mountainous Country, full of high Hills and fruitful Valleys; Cultivated by the industry of the Natives; who are taken notice of to be very well Skill'd in Husbandry, and extraordinary Laborious; for indeed the higher part of the *Province* is something more Barren than the lower, and therefore requires more Pains and Care, to render it productive of Fruits.

It has been Inhabited time out of Mind by such, who have always dissented from the *Church* of *Rome*; and if we may credit *History* and probability, they are the Off-springs of those, who flying from the *Romish Persecution* in the Days of the *Albigenses*, retired into these Remote and Craggy Mountains for Shelter: They are therefore a hardy and War-like People, Accustomed to eat their Bread with the Sweat of their Brows, and are natural and declared Enemies of *Popery*.

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The Country is not so Fruitful of Corn as the Lower part, but we may meet with many Vallies between the Hills yielding plenty of all sorts of Grain: But the ordinary Product amongst the Mountains, is *Chesnuts*, of which there is an incredible quantity, *Wine* and *Roots*. Here are also *Sheep*, *Goats*, *Cattle*, &c. There is a Ridge of Mountains that stretches along from hence to the *Pyrenean-Hills*. The highest and most considerable is *Lausere*, at the foot of which is the Ancient and unhappy Town of St. *Privas*, Sold by the Order of the *Court* of *France* to new Inhabitants, because the old would not admit *Mass* to be said among them. On the other sides are *Genovillac*, *Grave*, *Lagarde*, and at some distance *Mirandol*, Famous in the Martyrology, for the Sufferings of its Ancient Inhabitants for Religion.

The Natives of this Country have suffer'd as well as of the other Provinces in the late Persecution. The King's Troops enter'd in upon them, and committed strange *Barbarities*, and forced many against their Wills, to turn *Roman-Catholicks*. 'Tis Incredible to relate what is commonly Reported of the Cruelties that they endured here with an exemplary Patience and Submission. Yet for all the endeavours of their Adversaries, they have had constant Meetings in Woods, and retired Mountains, where they have perform'd their *Devotions* to *God*.

Since their first appearance in Arms, they have strangely increas'd in Numbers and Courage, insomuch that the *Weaker Sex* sometimes intermixes amongst them, and offers to venture their Lives in the Encounters with Musquet and Sword.

They have had the Assistance and Direction of many *Officers* of *Note*, who are gone to them out of *Swisserland*: So that now they are reputed to be above 20000 strong in all, but

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but oblig'd to ſeparate into Parties, for the defence of the *Avennes* of their *Country*.

Since the *Marſhal* of *Montrevel* is come againſt them, we hear of ſtrange *Barbarities* and *cruel Executions* done by his Orders, upon Men, Women and Children of theſe poor People. But that does not diſcourage, but rather Exaſperate and Animate them to Revenge. The *Prieſts*, the *Monks*, and *Fryars*, and particularly the *Jeſuitical Orders*, find no Mercy at their Hands; for as they have been the firſt *Encouragers* and *Authors* of their Sufferings, they are to expect nothing but *Death* if they fall in amongſt them: Therefore ſince their firſt riſing, the *Clergy*, both *Regular* and *Secular*, are Fled out of all the Mountains, and from the Adjacent Parts, to the Fortified Cities. *Niſmes* and *Montpellier* are full of this order of Men.

They have had divers Encounters with the King's Troops: For the *Militia* of the *Province* will not Fight againſt them, but as ſoon as they are within ſight, they all fly from them.

I muſt Confeſs to you, that we can have no certain Intelligence of the Actions and Fights, becauſe we are forced to receive them from their Enemies, through whoſe Country the News muſt paſs from them to us. But this is generally acknowledg'd and believed to be true, that the *Marſhal* came againſt them with 12000 Regular Troops; That he publiſh'd a *Pardon* in the *King's Name*, to all but their *Leaders*, which they deſpiſed. That in his firſt Attempt upon the Paſſages into their Mountains, he was ſtopt, and forced to retire with conſiderable loſs; ſome ſay 500, ſome ſay 1000, others Report, 1500 Men kill'd of his ſide, with little loſs of the *Camiſars*: However, they maintain'd the Paſs in ſpight of all the King's Forces, and oblig'd them to retire, and leave ſome of their Baggage behind.

After

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After that, they ventur'd down into the Low Country, and in three or four Skirmiſhes, they are reported to have deſtroyed and Mortally Wounded above 2500 Men: So that the *Marſhal*, who Boaſted at firſt of eating up thoſe *Camiſars* at a *Break faſt*, has been forced to take ſhelter in the City of *Niſmes*, from whence he ſends out Parties to intercept the *Camiſars*. *Julian the Apoſtate* was likely to cut off a Party of them by an Ambuſcade, but they maintain'd their Ground, and after ſome loſs on both ſides, they Retreated to their Mountains. One *de la Planque* an *Officer* of great *Note* and *Courage*, has been lately more roughly handled by them; For he loſt of about 2000 that he Commanded, near 1200 Men killed and wounded, and render'd unſerviceable.

We hear, the *Marſhal* has ſent for more Forces, and makes a ſad complaint of the Inhabitants of the Country round, and particularly of the *Citizens* of *Niſmes*; whom he repreſents to the Court, as encouragers of *Heretieks* and *Hereſie*. 'Tis certain he has Stigmatiz'd this City with the *Flower-de-Luce*, which he cauſed to be Printed upon their *Gates* and *Walles*, A Mark of Diſgrace.

Sir, When I ſhall have any thing worthy of your Knowledge, I ſhall not fail to Communicate it to you: My Service to all our Friends; I am with much Reſpect,

Yours, *&c.*

Geneva, 29th. *March*, 1703.

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SIR,

SINCE My laſt, which I hope, found you in perfect Health, I muſt give you this Account of the *Stout Camiſars*; That they have had great Succeſs againſt *Montrevel* and his Cut-throat Troops. The 5th of *April* laſt, a Body of about two Thouſand March'd upon ſome Deſign beyond St. *Gille*, towards *Montpellier*; The *Marſhal* ſent againſt them a ſtrong Party of his Troops, to which he joined ſome of the *Marines*: They found them at the entry of a Wood that looks towards a beautiful Plain; The *Camiſars* drew up under *Count Roland*, in four Diviſions, anſwerable to the order of the King's Forces: At the firſt diſcharge, the *Camiſars* were in ſome Diſorder, but they ſoon recover'd, and fell with ſo much Fury upon the *Marſhal* and his Men, that they Retreated, and fled to the other end of the Plain, where narrow Defiles ſaved them from farther Purſuit of the *Camiſars*, who were *Maſters* of the *Field*, of the Slain, and of ſeveral Waggons loaden with Ammunition and Baggage. In this Encounter, the *Camiſars* loſt not above 100 Men, moſt of them kill'd in the firſt Diſorder. They thought it not adviſeable to purſue the Enemy thro' the narrow Lanes, for fear of a Trapan, and being content with the Victory and *Plunder*, they march'd back into their Mountains, loaden with ſpoils: This Succeſs of the *Camiſars*, cauſed *Montrevel* to Reinforce his Troops with greater Numbers; and to recover his *Reputation*, that was almoſt loſt by his former Defeats, he marches ſecretly againſt them, with about 5000 or 6000 Men: But the *Camiſars* had notice of it, and waited for them at an Advantageous Place, where they could draw them into an *Ambuſh*: They divided their Men into three Parties, about 2500 they plac'd in *Ambuſcade*, and ſent about 500 to Face the King's Troops, and draw them by Retreating, towards a Vineyard, where the chief Body of 2500 were ready to Fire at the firſt approach of the

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Marſhal and his Men: They lay hid and unſeen, ſo the ſalut of their Muſquets was altogether unexpected. They took their Aim ſo well, that at the firſt diſcharge they kill'd above 1000. Then altogether fell upon them, ſo that they fled to a Neighbouring Hill, thinking to ſave themſelves amongſt the Vineyards, but about 400 more of the *Camiſars*, who had been Poſted on purpoſe there to intercept their Retreat, met them and deſtroyed a great number, and chiefly of the Officers. 'Tis credibly Reported, in this Encounter, about 2000 of the King's Party were cut off, and amongſt them, about 350 *Officers* and *Gentlemen* of the *Country*, whom the *Marſhal* had Summoned to come to his Aſſiſtance with their Servants. This *Victory* was obtain'd near *Sauve*, not far from St. *Hyppolite*. The *Camiſars*, after the Defeat of their Enemies, fell upon their Knees, and gave *God* the *Glory*, and Sang a *Pſalm* in the *Field of Battel:* After which, they took the Plunder, and found a great deal of Spoil belonging to the *Country Gentlemen*, and then march'd away to their Faſtneſſes.

This encourag'd the *Camiſars* to make daily Excurſions into their *Enemies Country*, and render'd them more bold and careleſs. So that not far from *Vauvert* they were met by a ſtrong Party, that kill'd them above 400 men before they could fight upon equal Terms. But as ſoon as they recover'd themſelves, knowing that there was no Retreat for them, they encounter'd the *Royaliſts* with their accuſtom'd Valour, and kill'd above 1000, and oblig'd the *Marſhal* himſelf, who was there in Perſon to run for Shelter to *Niſmes*, where he ſhut the *Gates* for fear of the purſuing Enemy.

'Tis

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'Tis certain, the *Marshal* is a cruel Person, unmerciful to the Reformed: His burning of about 500 Men, Women, and Children in a Mill at Prayers, and while they were singing of Psalms; His cutting the Throats of about 400 at *Montpellier* of the New Converts for being disaffected, and his drowning their Wives and Children near *Aigues Mortes*, has render'd his Name odious in these Parts, and increas'd the Courage and Number of the *Male-Contents*: For none can expect Safety in a *Neutrality*, Men must declare for one or the other Party. And those who are for the *Marshal* on the least Suspicion, Tenderness, or Dissatisfaction are hang'd, as one of his Soldiers was likely to be, who saved the Life of a Young *Gentlewoman* of *Quality* for a Diamond Ring: The *Marshal* caus'd the *Gentlewoman* to be kill'd, and had hang'd the Soldier, if he had not been saved by the Intercession of some *Popish Ladies*, who had an Influence upon the Cruel *Marshal*. The *Camisars* have had some loss at an *Old Castle*, where a great Number of Women and Children were met upon the Account of *Devotion*. *Montrevel* sent thither *de la Planque* to destroy them, but about 1500 *Camisars* came to their Assistance, and routed the first Party, and had Cut them all in Pieces, if they had not been relieved by a *fresh Company* of *Dragoons*, who put the 1500 Men to a Retreat, and burnt the Poor Women and Children in the *Castle*.

There are daily Encounters and Skirmishes between them; and I do not hear, but that these *Camisars* maintain their Ground, and are likely to succeed. However, they have the good Wishes and Prayers of all good Men; and as I am informed, the Country favours them, both the *Catholicks* and *Protestants*: For the unsufferable *Oppressions*, and *Taxes* have render'd this *Government* odious, as well as the *Cruelties* exercised upon the *Reformed Subjects*.

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Subjects. There is a *New Declaration* of the *Camiſars*, that makes a great Noiſe, for being Penn'd with *Moderation*, and aiming at the Publick *Good* and *Tranquility*; it is well accepted by the *Generality* of *Men*. What Effect it may have upon the reſt of the *Nation*, Time will diſcover. I ſend you a *Copy* of it, that you may Publiſh it in *England*, to the End that *wiſe Nation* may underſtand the peaceable Temper of theſe *Camiſars*, and to what neceſſities they have been reduced, by the *Violence* of the *Clergy*, the *Orders* of the *Court*, and the *Cruelty* of their *Perſecutors*. *God* preſerve you, I am

Yours, &c.

Geneva, *May* 29. 1703.

Some

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Some ſeaſonable Reflections *upon the* Popes Bull, *and the* Mandate *of the Biſhop of* Niſmes, *directed againſt them to the Clergy of the Dioceſs.*

AGainſt theſe poor perſecuted People, the Pope hath Thunder'd from his *Vatican*, and ſent a Roaring-Bull in the Kalends of *May*, to threaten them with Death and Deſtruction. It begins thus, *Clement* XII. *The Servant of the Servants of the Lord*, &c. A proud and preſuming Title, that relates to Chriſts Words. He that will be the greateſt or chief among you, let him be your Servant: It ſeems, his Holineſs claims that Superiority by that Humble Name, that he Challenges to himſelf, under which he covers a vaſt deal of Pride and Tyranny.

'Tis directed to *Ambroſe, our beloved Son in Chriſt, Biſhop of* Niſmes, *wiſhing him Health and Divine Benediction.*

Firſt, The Holy Father according to his wonted Zeal, for his Antichriſtian Church, declares his *extraordinary Diſturbance and grief of Mind, not to be expreſt in Words, when he underſtood from the* French *Ambaſſador at* Rome, *that the* Cevennois *were raiſing New Commotions againſt the Church, and againſt their Sovereign Prince.* His Grief and Diſturbance were not moved, when thoſe poor Innocents were Dragoon'd, Plunder'd, Ruin'd, Hang'd, broken up-

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on the Wheel, and perſecuted in an unreaſonable Manner. But aſſoon as they ſtood up to defend themſelves againſt his Catholick Butchers, he is highly concern'd, and cannot but Intereſt himſelf in the Cauſe, to encourage the ſhedding of the Blood of theſe poor *Diſſenters*, whom he brands with the moſt odious Names of *Hereticks*, *the accurſed Relicks of the Ancient* Albigenſes. Thus the Whore of *Rome* calls Whore firſt. But how unfit is that Name to be given to ſuch, as propoſe to themſelves to follow the Religion of Chriſt, and his Holy Apoſtles? And to imitate St. *Paul*, for *after that way, which they call Hereſie, ſo Worſhip they the God of their Fathers, believing all Things, which are written in the Law of* Moſes, *of* Chriſt, *and of the* Prophets *and* Apoſtles. But 'tis the Practice of *Rome* to poſſeſs the World with falſe Notions of Men of other Perſwaſions, and repreſent them as abominable in the Eyes of its *Devotees*; and therefore calls theſe zealous Aſſertors of the Truth, the *accurſed Relicks of the Ancient* Albigenſes: Whom the *Popes* Curſes and *Croiſado's* in former Ages deſtroyed, and rooted out of the neighbouring Provinces, and forced to ſhelter in theſe barren and uneaſie Mountains, fitter for the Habitation of Wild Beaſts than Men: But hither alſo the *Popes* Fury purſues them. Therefore ſays he, *to obviate the Rage of ſuch a furious Peſtilence, which we were in hopes, had been extinguiſhed by the Piety of* Lewis *the Great*; *we have thought fit to follow the Examples of our Predeceſſors in the like Caſe.* What Expreſſions of Rage and Fury are theſe from a *Vicar* of *Chriſt?* What plain Flattery to call that Piety, which is the moſt barbarous Perſecution that ever was in the World? And for the Stile of *Lewis the Great*, future Ages will never be ſo *fooliſh* to allow it to him, unleſs *it be that of the Greateſt Plague of our* European *World. The great Diſturber of our Publick Peace, the great Invader*

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of his Neighbours Rights, the great Breaker of Covenants, Oaths, and Truces, the great Scourge of Mankind, who hath ſpilt more Blood than the *Caligula's*, the *Nero's*, the *Domitians*, the *Attila's*, &c. Nay, more than any Five of the moſt inhumane Tyrants ſince the Creation. If to be great, is to exceed in Wickedneſs and Barbarity, we may allow the *French* King that Title, not otherwiſe; unleſs we imitate his Clergy and Courtiers, whoſe Speeches are fulſome Flattery. He continues, *Wherefore, that we may ſtir up, and encourage the faithful to exterminate this ungracious Crew of forlorn Wretches, that in all Ages have been hateful to God and* Cæſar; *we freely grant and indulge the full Remiſſion of all Sins whatever, they may be relying upon that Power of binding and looſening, which our Lord conferred upon his chief Apoſtle, to all thoſe who ſhall Liſt themſelves in this Sacred Militia, if they ſhall happen to fall in Battel.* In Imitation of the *French* King, and the *Hildebrands*, and other bloody *Popes*, this *Clement*, this merciful Biſhop of *Rome* calls upon his Diſciples, to purſue and deſtroy this handful of poor Creatures, contrary to the Practice of Chriſt, who ſeverely rebuk'd the Two Diſciples, who would have had Fire from Heaven to come and deſtroy the *Samaritans* in a like Caſe. His hatred of them appears by the Names that he beſtows upon them, and by granting *Paradiſe* and Heaven to all ſuch, as ſhall be aſſiſting in their Deſtruction, preſuming upon a Power never allowed to any of the *Apoſtles*, who were Commanded to Preach the *Goſpel* without Sword or Staff; And to render the *Bull* more Publick, he Orders; *Therefore we command you to fix this Bull ſeal'd with the Seal of the Fiſherman, upon the Doors of all Churches that belong to your Dioceſs, to the end, the Impiety of thoſe frantick People may be ſtopped from creeping any farther.* The World by this, may underſtand, what a Clement

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Clement *Father* of the Church they have; what they are to expect from his Goodneſs and Clemency, if they act contrary to the Intereſt of *Rome*.

In Obedience to this *Bull*, the Biſhop of *Niſmes* ſends his Mandate to all the Curates of his *Dioceſs*, in the like Manner and Language.

WHereas the Inhabitants of the Cevennes *making their moſt impious Rebellion, the plauſible pretence for promoting the Purity of God's Worſhip, which as St.* Auſtin *long ago obſerv'd, was the conſtant Practiſe of* Hereticks; *and poſſeſſed with a Diabolical Spirit, as we have Reaſon to believe, have taken villanous Arms againſt the moſt Serene Majeſty of* Lewis *the Great, have laid in Aſhes Churches, Chapels, and Religious Houſes; have invaded the Farms and Revenues of the Clergy with Fire and Sword, and which we tremble to repeat, have not only by manifold Injuries and barbarous Uſage, afflicted and vexed the venerable Prieſts of the Church, but alſo moſt nefariouſly cut their Throats before the Altars themſelves.*

The Pious Son muſt follow the Dictates, and ſpeak his Fathers Language againſt theſe hated People, ſo *odious* to *God* and *Cæſar*, or rather ſo hateful to that *accurſed Crew* of *Religious Hypocrites*, as now govern in the Church of *Rome*, becauſe they deſert their abominable Lives, and unſufferable Errors and Tyranny, and will not be ſubject to them.

Hereſie and Rebellion are uſed to render theſe Men hateful, and a Paſſage of St. *Auſtin* is alledg'd to colour the Accuſation. The Biſhop ſuppoſes them to be poſſeſſed with a *Diabolical Spirit*, becauſe of their wonderful Succeſſes, and becauſe of a Divine Spirit, which appeared in the very Children, who maintain'd in Diſcourſe the

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the Evangelical Truths againſt their Oppoſers to the great Admiration of all Men; and therefore have been thought in thoſe Parts by them, who have heard them to be inſpired.

He accuſes them with Plundering of Prieſts and Churches, and killing them before the Altars. 'Tis probable, that thoſe who have been their cruel Perſecutors, and continue to be ſuch, meet with no Favour, and it is but juſt, while the Sword is drawn, to requite them according to their deſervings. He adds,

We Ambroſe, *by Divine Permiſſion Biſhop of* Niſmes; *that we may not be wanting in our Obedience to the Commands, as far as lies within our Power of our moſt Bleſſed Pontiff, and moſt Pious Prince* Lewis *the* XIV. *moſt ſtrictly and firmly by theſe our Letters, enjoin and command both you, and every of you, that you'll make it your Buſineſs, to preſerve the Flock by us committed to your Care, from this Contagion, ſo pernicious not only to their Souls, but alſo to their Bodies.*

The Biſhop it ſeems fears, leaſt theſe Men having taken up Arms in ſo Juſt a Cauſe, againſt the Oppreſſions and Tyranny of the Government; ſhould draw to their Party a greater number out of the neighbouring Pariſhes: To prevent others from joining with them, he charges the Prieſts, to look to the Inhabitants of their ſeveral Diviſions, and adviſes them next.

Moreover, we Exhort you all by the Bowels of our Lord, preach frequently to the People, and in your Sermons earneſtly to exhort the faithful, not to afford any Succour or Aſſiſtance to the aforeſaid Rebels, or relieve them with Entertainment or Proviſions, but that they endeavour their Extirpation by Fire and Sword.

Here you may ſee all along the true Genius of Pope-ry the fiery Spirit that governs in all its Profeſſors, it

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breaths nothing but Ruin and Destruction, Fire and Sword, Gibbets and Wheels, and a Total Extirpation of all Gain-sayers. The Goodness and Power of God is remarkable in his Providence, in relation to us in *England*, in delivering of us from such uneasie and wretched Governours. And we have Reason to pity such poor Wretches, as fall under such unmerciful Hands.

To encourage the *Papists* to resist them, he adds, *If they shall strenuously do so, as becomes valiant Soldiers for the Church, and the King; they shall obtain full Remission of all their Sins, as by the* Bull *inclosed, more at large may appear, with all the plentiful Fruits of such Indulgence. Wherefore we make no Question, but that you will all of you undertake this* Province *chearfully and unanimously, more especially, since* Lewis *the Great, by the wholesome Advice of the Holy* Pontiff, *and the Bishops of his Kingdom, has decreed not to leave so much as one Heretick alive within his Dominions. By which means the Majesty of Almighty God, the Honour of the Catholick Church, and the Princes Royal Dignity shall be preserv'd inviolable to Posterity.*

By this Mandate dated the Seventh of the *Ides* of *May* last, you may see what those poor Wretches are to expect from the Clemency of the *Pope* and his Bishops, and from the Mercy of their King. God preserve them, and send them success against all their bloody Enemies, and grant to us the Wisdom and Christian Prudence to Live in Unity, Love and Amity amongst our Selves; that we may prevent the pernicious Designs of all these Antichristian Enemies, from whom all Perswasions both of the Church of *England*, and our Dissenting Brethren may expect no better Treatment, if ever we should have a Popish Prince to reign amongst us, which God forbid.

FINIS.

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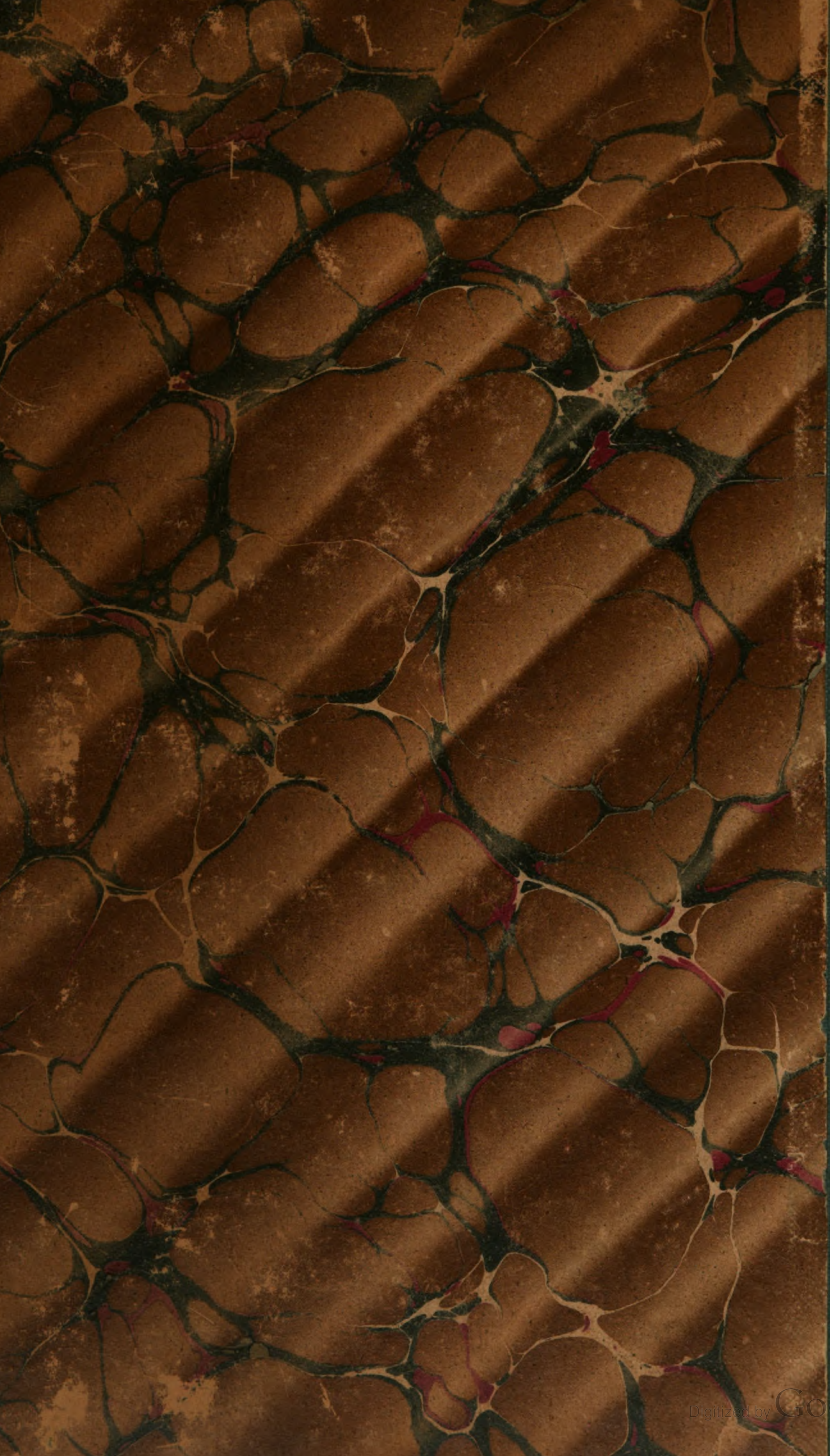
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